

SENATE BILL 1925

By Lundberg

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 7; Title 49, Chapter 8 and Title 49, Chapter 9, relative to military service members enrolled in postsecondary education.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 7, Part 23, is amended by adding the following language as a new section:

Military reserve and national guard personnel who are students attending a state institution of higher education shall receive excused absences for classes missed for documented mandatory military service in the same manner as the institution would excuse attendance from a class for an official school function or other unavoidable event.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-7-2301, is amended by designating the existing language as subsection (c) and by adding the following language as new subsections (a) and (b).

(a) A state institution of higher education shall permit military reserve and national guard personnel who are attending the institution and are called to active duty the option to withdraw, even if the deadline to withdraw from courses has passed, or to receive a grade of incomplete in any course in which a service member is enrolled. The withdrawal or the grade of incomplete shall be reflected on the service member's transcript. A service member who withdraws from a course shall be eligible for a tuition credit or refund under subsection (c).

(b) If a service member is called to active duty and must withdraw from a course or receive a grade of incomplete, then the withdrawal or grade of incomplete that is

related to the service absence shall not affect eligibility or continuing eligibility for state or institutional financial aid, including scholarships or grants, upon reenrollment at the institution. The semester hours attempted for courses from which the military service member withdrew or received a grade of incomplete shall not count against any limitation or receipt of state or institutional financial aid, including scholarships or grants. Future consideration for state or institutional financial aid, scholarships, or grants shall not be affected by the withdrawal from a course or the receipt of a grade of incomplete due to mandatory service obligations.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.